

Patent Docket: D2702
Serial No. 09/922,325

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2003. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-23 and 33 are canceled herein without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 2 and 5 were previously canceled. Claims 24-32 have been allowed. Claim 36 has been amended to place it in allowable form in accordance with the Examiner's remarks. Claims 34-35 and 37 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 36, thereby making these claims allowable. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's remarks in paragraph 2.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION OVERCOME

The Examiner objected to the specification due to an inclusion of a website reference. The specification has been amended herein to remove the website reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is hereby respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 1-23, 33-35 AND 37 ARE PATENTABLE OVER

FREEMAN ET AL. AND BATES

The Examiner rejected claims 1-23, 33-35 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,019,284 to Freeman et al. [hereinafter "Freeman et al."] in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,314,765 to Bates [hereinafter "Bates"]. While the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of these references vis-à-vis the claims at issue, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-23 and 33, and amended claims 34, 35 and 37 to depend from now allowable claim 36 to expedite issuance of a patent, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-23, 33-35 and 37 is therefore respectfully requested.

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CLAIMS 24-32 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Examiner's finding that claims 24-32 are allowable over the prior art is gratefully acknowledged.

CLAIM 36 IS ALLOWABLE

The Examiner objected to claim 36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 36 has been so amended, hence reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 36 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit this application is in condition for allowance and request issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

In the event the prosecution of this application can be efficiently advanced by a phone discussion, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be called at (703) 435-9390.

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FEES

If additional amounts are due following the amendments made to the claims above, or for any other reason, it is respectfully requested that the PTO charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of Mayer Fortkort & Williams PC, Deposit Account, #50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael P. Fortkort (Reg. No. 35,141)

Date: September 9, 2003

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Please direct telephone calls to:
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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this document and any document referenced herein has been transmitted via facsimile to the US Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9319 on September 9, 2003.

Marjorie Scariati
(Printed Name of Person Sending Correspondence)


(Signature)